

Claims

- 5      1.    The use of dextran in the preparation of a nutritional composition for selectively increasing the production of propionate in the gastro-intestinal tract of a mammal.
- 10      2.    The use of dextran in the preparation of a nutritional composition for decreasing blood cholesterol levels in a mammal.
- 10      3.    The use of dextran in the preparation of a nutritional composition for decreasing blood triglyceride levels in a mammal.
- 15      4.    The use of dextran in the preparation of a nutritional composition for decreasing very low density lipoprotein levels in a mammal.
- 15      5.    The use of dextran in the preparation of a nutritional composition for increasing high density lipoprotein levels in a mammal.
- 20      6.    The use of dextran in the preparation of a nutritional composition for increasing insulin sensitivity in a mammal.
- 25      7.    The use according to any of claims 1 to 6 in which the dextran is a high molecular weight dextran having a molecular weight above about 500'000.
- 25      8.    The use according to any of claims 1 to 7 in which the nutritional composition further comprises inulin, fructo-oligo saccharide, galacto-oligosaccharides, or xylo-oligosaccharides, or mixtures thereof.
- 30      9.    The use according to any of claims 1 to 8 in which the nutritional composition further comprises a lipid source which is rich in monounsaturated fatty acids and poor in saturated fatty acids.

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